

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) Method for banding stacked, soft and/or sensitive goods to be packaged (52), with a banding machine (10), wherein the unwound package band (22) is guided around the goods to be packaged (52), pulled onto the goods to be packaged (52) in a reverse movement, glued or welded and cut off, characterised in that a preselection loop of the package band (22) is pulled back to a preselected loop length (L) in the reverse movement with the aid of an electronic control system (60).

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein an electronically activated, co-running rotary encoder roller (44) ends the reverse movement of the package band (22) at the preselected loop length (L).

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ , wherein the loop length (L) is predetermined by measuring the stacked goods to be packaged (52), the data is entered and selectably stored for the digital control system (60).

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the stacked goods to be packaged (52) are automatically measured at the beginning of the process.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein necessary value corrections for

the loop length (L) are entered and selectably stored.

6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein if the loop length (L) is not reached, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

7. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein, in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a maximum band tension which can be selected by the control system (60), preferably a digital control system, is entered, and in the event of being exceeded, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

8. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that,~~ claim 1, wherein in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a minimum band tension which can be selected by the control system (60), ~~preferably a digital control system,~~ is entered and in the event of a repeated successive falling below the minimum band tension, a programme-controlled shortening of the loop length (L) takes place, or in the event of a first instance of falling below the minimum band tension, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

9. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein a printed package band (22) is positioned so as to be precisely repeatable with a printer's imprint control system.

10. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein, in the banding

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machine (10), printed information is checked with the aid of the preselection loop and preferably banded centrally.